Price Stabilization Fund

839. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to stop any further rise in the prices of essential commodities;

(b) whether Government propose to create a separate Price Stabilization Fund; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Containment of inflation remains high on the agenda of the Government, as inflation hurts everybody, particularly the poor whose incomes are not indexed to prices. Anti-inflationary policies of the Government include strict fiscal and monetary discipline, rationalization of excise and import duties of selected essential commodities so that there is no undue burden on the poor, effective supply-demand management of essential items through liberal tariff and trade policies, and strengthening the public distribution system.

(b) There is no such proposal with the Government.

(c) Does not arise.

Increase in prices of edible items

†840. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the year 2004-05, the prices of edible items have risen;

(b) if so, the average increase at national level;

(c) whether it is also a fact that at different places of the country a wide gap in this increase has been noticed; and

(d) if so, the places where this increase was the maximum and when it was the minimum and the reasons for this maximum and minimum increase?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The annual average increase of prices of major edible items in terms of the Wholesale Price Index (Base: 1993-94=100) in 2004-05 are indicated in Table-1. It is observed from the table that prices of rice, gram, moong dal, urad dal mustard oil, groundnut oil, onion, dry chillies, condiments and spices, and cauliflower declined during 2004-05.

Table-1

Sl. No.	Items	Weight%	2004-05
ALL COMMODITIES		100.00	6.5
Edible items			
1	Rice	2.45	-0.4
2	Wheat	1.38	1.5
3	Atta	0.21	0.5
4	Arhar	0.13	3.6
5	Gram	0.22	-3.8
6	Moong	0.11	-4.3
7	Urad	0.10	-0.5
8	Masur	0.04	0.5
9	Rape & Mustard Oil	0.49	-8.7
10	Hydrogenated vanaspati	0.80	2.6
11	Groundnut Oil	0.17	-4.1
12	Coconut Oil	0.17	14.6
13	Mutton	0.44	6.6
14	Pork	0.04	0.5
15	Fish-Inland	0.50	6.1
16	Milk	4.37	4.4
17	Ghee	0.21	1.03
18	Salt	0.02	16.1
19	Onions	0.09	-19.4
20	Chillies (Dry)	0.19	-23.4
21	Condiments & Spices	0.06	-8.2
22	Potatoes	0.26	52.9

Sl. No.	Items	Weight%	2004-05
23	Brinjal	0.13	1.8
24	Tomatoes	0.48	1.9
25	Cauliflower	0.08	-0.6
26	Peas green	0.15	0.1
27	Banana	0.28	6.5
28	Sugar	3.62	19.2
29	Gur	0.06	41.9
30	Tea	0.16	20.7

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. There were wide variations of price rise among various regions. The maximum and minimum increases of prices of various edible items in terms of the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (Base: 1982=100) compiled by the Labour Bureau, Shimla are indicated in Table-2. Price variations are due to variations of transportation costs, local taxes and duties and local supply and demand conditions.

Table 2: Centre-wise increase in the prices of selected edible items in terms of CPI-W (per cent)

Items	Unit	Centres	Maximum increase March-05/April-04	Centres	Minimum increase March-05/April-04
1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Rice	Kg.	Pondicherry	22.22	Warangal	0.10
2. Wheat	Kg.	Coimbatore	27.89	Hubli Dharwar	0.27
3. Wheat atta	Kg.	Tinsukia Doom Dooma	13.77	Jalpaiguri	0.55
4. Arhar dal	Kg	Barbil	15.25	Amritsar	0.66
5. Gram dal	Kg.	Nasik	12.0	Mundakayam	0.15
6. Moong dal (dhuli)	Kg.	Nasik	27.27	Mumbai	0.33
7. Urad dal (dhuli)	Kg	Rangapara Tezpur	25.00	Asansol	1.10

1		2	3	4	5	6
8.	Masur dal	Kg.	Jabalpur	16.36	Sholapur	1.69
9.	Mustard oil	Kg.	Ludhiana	18.18	Faridabad	10.87
10.	Vanaspati	Kg.	Balaghat	14.70	Nagpur	0.85
11.	Groundnutl oil	Kg.	Durgapur	11.11	Heldia	0.46
12.	Coconut oil	Kg.	Nasik	17.50	Belgam	1.44
13.	Goat Meat/ Mutton	Kg.	Jabalpur	25.00	Jalpaiguri	0.42
14.	Pork	Kg.	Amritsar	19.05	Delhi	0.45
15.	Fish-fresh	Kg.	Thiruvanantha-puram	66.58	Haldia	0.48
16.	Milk (Buffalo)	Litre	Ajmer	14.29	Varanasi	1.49
17.	Pure Ghee	Kg.	Nagpur	33.42	Hubli Dharwar	0.63
18.	Salt	Kg.	Quilon	20.00	Delhi	1.08
19.	Onion	Kg.	Ghaziabad	18.75	Guntur	3.70
20.	Chilies-dry	100gms	Ghaziabad	16.67	Bhavnagar	1.28
21.	Mixed Spices (Pkt.)	100gms	Labac Silcher	25.00	Kolkata	0.76
22.	Potato	Kg.	Ludhiana	92.50	Hubli Dharwar	2.38
23.	Brinjal	Kg.	Pondicherry	66.67	Jabalpur	1.34
24.	Tomato	Kg	Bangalore	131.98	Indore	2.30
25.	Cauliflower	Kg.	Tinsukia Doom Dooma	55.50	Mumbai	0.89
26.	Peas	Kg.	Nasik	33.33	Ghaziabad	9.38
27.	Banana	Dozen	Ranchi Hatia	26.59	Haldia	0.52
28.	Sugar	Kg.	Srinagar	45.45	Madurai	2.99
29.	Gur	Kg.	Quilon	50.30	Conor	2.01
30.	Tea-Leaf	100gms	Madurai	12.21	Indore	0.84